

U.S. Patent Application 10/045,830

Listing of claims

1. (original): An image display system comprising:
a composite image source, a portion of the composite image source being
a first image source, and another portion of the composite image source being
a second image source;
a beamcombiner;
a single lens; and
a reflective element disposed to reflect the image of said second image source to
said beamcombiner;
wherein said first image source, said second image source, said beamcombiner,
and said single lens are so disposed as to present to a viewer a foreground
image from one of said image sources, and a background image from the other
of said image sources, the background image being presented at a greater
distance from the viewer than the foreground image, at least one of the images
being a real image or virtual image presented by the single lens;
whereby the viewer perceives the foreground image and the background image
as part of a scene having depth.

2. (original): An image display system as in claim 1, further comprising
an optical element interposed between the beamcombiner and the viewer;
wherein said optical element is adapted to modify the aspect ratio of said
foreground image and said background image.

3. (original): An image display system comprising:
a foreground image source;
a background image source;
a beamcombiner; and
a mask interposed between said background image source and said
beamcombiner;
wherein said foreground image source, said background image source, and said
beamcombiner are so disposed as to present to a viewer a foreground image

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from the foreground image source, and a background image from the background image source, the background image being presented at a greater distance from the viewer than the foreground image;
wherein said foreground image source and said mask are the same distance from said beamcombiner; and
wherein said mask displays a silhouette of foreground objects that appear coincident with said foreground image source;
whereby the viewer perceives the foreground image and the background image as part of a scene having depth, and
whereby said mask acts to mask portions of the background image from the viewer so as to improve presentation of foreground objects.

4. (original): An image display system as in claim 3, wherein said mask is a light valve.

5. (original): An image display system comprising:
a first image source;
a second image source;
a beamcombiner; and
a single lens;
wherein said first image source, said second image source, and said beamcombiner are so disposed as to present to a viewer a foreground image from one of said image sources, and a background image from the other of said image sources, the background image being presented at a greater distance from the viewer than the foreground image, and
wherein said lens is interposed between said first image source and the viewer so as to present at least one of the foreground image and the background image as a real image,
whereby the viewer perceives the foreground image and the background image as part of a scene having depth.

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6. (original): An image display system consisting of an image source and a single lens, wherein said lens is interposed between said image source and the viewer so as to present an image of the image source as a real image, whereby the viewer perceives the image as floating in space between said lens and the viewer.

7. An image display system as in claim 6, wherein the lens is a Fresnel lens.

8-15. (canceled)